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PATENT

New Attorney Docket No. 8109.003.USDV

Old Attorney Docket No. 38599.0015

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Inventor: | James D. Thacker |) | Group Art Unit: 1645 |
| | |) | |
| Appl. No.: | 10/020,923 |) | |
| | |) | Examiner: Jana A. Hines |
| Filing Date: | December 19, 2001 |) | |

Title: METHODS FOR THE RAPID DETECTION OF ACTIVELY RESPIRING MICROORGANISM

MAIL STOP: AF

**Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

Sir:

a.) Introductory Comments:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In response to the final Office Action, mail dated March 15, 2006, applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments to the claims and reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of these amendments and applicant's remarks below.